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## PORTRAIT

### THE OTHER PORTRAIT

Curated by Cherine Fahd & Julie Rrap

UTS Gallery & SCA Gallery 16 June – 23 July 2021





Patrick Pound, *Pairs*, 2010-2021, found photographs, site specific/variable. Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney.

# THE OTHER PORTRAIT

Rachel Kent

The Other Portrait presents works by ten Australian artists encompassing photography, sculpture and screen-based media. Centred on representation and the self, it demonstrates the complex and varied ways in which artists have explored identity through the prism of the individual, family, community and creative practice. Unfolding across two campus galleries at the University of Technology Sydney and Sydney College of the Arts at University of Sydney, the theme of 'doubling' finds expression in both the exhibition framework and artworks which are shown between each venue, forming an extended conversation in halves.

The concept of self as 'one and other' has a lengthy history in art and psychoanalysis. As a means to explore interior and exterior worlds, as well as the relationship between artist/subject and viewer, it suggests the inherent instability of individual and artistic identity; and a portrait of time and transformation itself. Enabled by technologies of reproduction (photography, film) the contemporary portrait is both malleable and endlessly reproducible. Situated within a wider historical continuum, it reflects the malleability of vision itself, offering different physiological and conceptual perspectives on the self and its persistent shadow. *The Other Portrait* extends these themes, foregrounding the 'double' inherent in the artist as maker and subject; and introducing an added layer of replication and difference through the two-part works made by each participating artist, and dual exhibition venues.

Exhibition co-curators **Julie Rrap** and **Cherine Fahd** present two collaborative bodies of work in *The Other Portrait*. Thinking through the (female) body in terms of portraiture and doubling, their work in photography and video reflects shared theoretical and philosophical concerns, across generations; and it builds

on political concepts explored in their 2018 co-curated exhibition *Critical Bodies* at the Verge Gallery. How to represent the self when it remains fragmented, or indeed invisible, through the lens of the other lies at the heart of their exploration. In one exhibition venue, the artists invert and conjoin the left sides of their faces to create new, uncanny composite portraits. In the other venue, the right sides are conjoined to similar effect. Recognisable, yet not so, they present two different versions of the artists that sit between classical photographic self-portraiture and something distinctly more unsettling.

Augmenting Rrap and Fahd's photographic works are two versions of a short video loop in which one artist disrobes behind a semitransparent screen, passing her clothes to the other to wear, and vice versa. Like an 'exquisite corpse' in which one protagonist responds to the other, back and forth, towards a collective yet unknown outcome, the video reveals shared gestures and idiosyncratic moments as the two women undress. The awkward interchangeability of clothing, bodies and identities suggests a cross-generational conversation that is both tense and humorous. Placing the onus on the viewer to 'complete the conversation', Rrap and Fahd's works extend ideas around other possible selves, shadows and doubles, through dual authorship and location.

The other, and othering as a political concept, is further extended through Cigdem Aydemir's performance and post-performance works for The Other Portrait. In the first work, we see photographic documentation of the artist in the wake of an endurance performance, her face coloured by a powerful sunburn line as the result of wearing a head scarf on the hot Australian beach. The paradox of this gesture is multi-fold, recalling the artist's childhood memories on one hand, and the veil (which she does not wear now) on the other. At SCA Gallery, a new video entitled *Nomad* features the artist's double or stand-in, in the form of a still life constructed from a halved melon and picnic vegetables upon sand. The melon is framed by a veil which billows and twists upwards under the force of an invisible wind, accompanied by a soundscape of water and beach noises. Playful yet serious, Aydemir's works enact a powerful tension between past and present, self and other, as a means of locating identity. Always on the move, it slips away from singular readings to become something more dynamic and complex.

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Identity, childhood, and adult selves are persistent themes within *The Other Portrait*. **William Yang**'s seven photographic self-portraits encompass six decades of the artist's life from aged 6 to the present day. Augmented by a new video work at UTS Gallery, Yang's works collectively explore the formation of identity through a social and cultural lens. Written text inscribes the surface of several prints like a palimpsest; and an extended monologue accompanies the video in the characteristic style of Yang's live, spoken-word performances. As a queer Chinese-Australian man, Yang offers a powerful consideration of the 'other' through his narration, reimagining and remixing concepts of the self in relation to time, family and community. In the works, past catches up with present whilst identity continues to shift and evolve through narrative intervention. Like a mixtape, Yang's photographic assemblage weaves a path through time with literary detours, familial tragedy and intimate moments as its guide.

Like Yang, **Sara Oscar** takes her childhood self as the starting point of an imaginative, narrative journey for *The Other Portrait*. Reflecting on her father and uncle – keen body builders from Mumbai who relocated to Sydney in the 1960s – Oscar inserts her own limbs into family photographs to create strange new hybrids. Text annotations document diet and exercise regime along with personal and conversational fragments. Body politics and Western assimilation are themes throughout Oscar's familial exploration and they contrast powerfully with the artist's present role as her ageing father's carer. Reflecting her own body in relation to his, Oscar's hybrid portrait-doubles reflect an obsession with perfection and strength at odds with age, disability and decline.

A hyper-masculinity at odds with feminine identity is also suggested through the works, some of which feature Thai fabrics worn by Oscar's mother, 'pinned' to the body like a child's dress-up doll. In the other venue, Oscar presents a suite of self-portraits in disguise, some with the head missing, mimicking body building poses. Humorous and absurd, they mediate the heightened emotions and trauma of childhood through visual reinvention and the double.

Who am I? This is one of the questions posed by **Ronnie van Hout**'s enlarged, life-like sculptural head in *The Other Portrait*. It continues the artist's extensive body of work exploring the self – big and small, young and old – over the past two-plus decades; and it generates surprise and unease, as well as humour, on the part of the viewer.

Attempting to 'wear' the head over his own, van Hout is literally engulfed, his torso lost within the sculpture and his legs protruding stick-like from below it. Made during Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdowns, the head is so large and unwieldy it could not be positioned upright by the artist, alone, ahead of the exhibition. Thus he lay flat upon the ground, inserting himself horizontally inside his massive double, to further absurd effect.

Scale has been a focus of sculptors over the centuries, and van Hout is not immune to the pleasures and challenges of the very big. Ominous in scale, the head builds upon his previous sculptures of child-size 'Ronnies' in pyjamas with uncannily large adult hands and feet, robot Ronnies and identical Stepford-like Ronnies. Accompanying the sculpture is a digital video of van Hout wearing the head, superimposed via green screen onto the forecourt of the National Gallery of Victoria: a whimsical parody of the desire for artistic recognition and inclusion in an era of limited opportunity. A supersized mascot for himself, van Hout's head is a beacon and a come-on, drawing attention by means of exaggeration, yet forlorn and overlooked.

**Simon Cooper**'s video works shift from the personal and the familial to a more speculative, interior terrain. Presented across the exhibition venues are two short, three-minute video loops that explore adjusted styles of communication with 'other-than-human persons' connected to the artist. Questioning the idea of the individual, and personhood more widely, the works make a case for the self as a multivalent, ever shifting terrain of voices – a multiplying sequence of 'others' that together form a consciousness rooted within, and outside of the singular.

Cooper first learned about trance states and animism (the recognition of meaningful social relations with both animate and non-animate things) during time spent living and working in Southeast Asia over 25 years. Through these learnings, he came to a practice in art. Seeking to understand and engage further in a dialogue with something beyond 'the self', he describes the videos as collaborations that sit outside Western perspectives on identity. Both video works feature Cooper in the role of protagonist: one focussing on his relationship to the outside world, as a doubled figure moving back and forth along a beach vista; and the other, set within bushlands and other locations, based on a conversation that may (or

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may not) exist depending on the viewer's point of view. Uncanny and curious, they present self and other/s in a feedback loop that sits somewhere between daily reality and a magical unconscious.

The interior life of the artist is a persistent theme in *The Other Portrait*. For **Gabriella and Silvana Mangano**, it takes the form of two projected video portraits shot in the sisters' studio, during the COVID-19 lockdowns in Melbourne. Reflecting the quiet intimacy between the sisters, who have collaborated artistically for almost two decades, and their shared workspace, the videos focus respectively on hands and objects, rather than faces or literal portraits.

The former video, Holding the Hidden, draws its inspiration from Lydia Davis's short story, Hand, in which she observes: 'Beyond the hand holding this book that I'm reading, I see another hand lying idle and slightly out of focus - my extra hand.' Drawing attention to the double or pair - one active, one at rest - it suggests an interchangeable, active/passive relationship built upon shared purpose and creative endeavour. In the video, we see the artists' torsos clad in black and white shirting, their hands gently buttoning sleeves and collar, cradling an elbow or wrist. The second video moves away from the sisters' hands to the workspace and objects within it (notebooks and bell; ceramic vessel and coiled rope; tape measure and adaptor plug), which are carefully arranged in an inanimate choreography. Relocated to the home, following the lockdowns, the studio itself is an intimate, resonant space where family and creative life intersect. The rhythmic sound of a drum being hit acts as a time stamp or metronome, noting time's passage and the rhythm of work.

Moving away from the doubled studio portrait to the wider world is **Patrick Pound**'s assemblage of anonymous, found photographs. Presented as pairs across the two exhibition venues, in matching vitrines, the images tell an arbitrary yet seemingly connected story of past lives, events and places. Both nostalgic and generic, the photographs suggest an archive of humankind writ through tiny details – a smilling woman posing to the left, then right of a vintage motorcar; husband-and-wife tourists swapping the camera to take matching photos on a road trip; an iceberg viewed closer, then further away. Acting as a mirror or palindrome, they test the viewer's recognition as they walk from one exhibition venue to the other, comparing their memory (or IPhone photos) of the two sets of imagery that are alike and not so.

Tricks of photography, chance alignments, pairs and partners, and positive/negative prints put the historical idea of the 'portrait' to the test in Pound's work. A mind game waiting to be played, it offers no conclusive end, and instead remains unstable, elusive and open to interpretation.

Reflecting on *The Other Portrait*, the ten exhibiting artists offer insights that are intimate and resonant on many levels. From creative collaboration to uncanny pairings, doubles and shadows, their works reflect a world of uncertainty and transformation. Like Pound's enigmatic photographic pairings, or Rrap and Fahd's exquisite corpse, the exhibition itself becomes a vast puzzle to be decoded. Centering the self and its 'other' through an array of personal, familial, artistic and interior narratives, it allows us to navigate spaces and ideas freely, drawing our own connections between them and posing questions.

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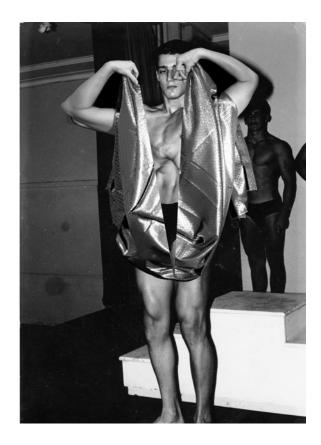




Ronnie van Hout, Stalker, 2021, lying in the artist's studio. Courtesy the artist, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney and Station Gallery, Melbourne.



Simon Cooper, Feeling It/Being It, 2021, 2 channel digital video, 3:00 mins. Courtesy the artist.



Sara Oscar, *Body in My Pieces*, 2021, five pigment prints, 50 cm x 70 cm (detail). Courtesy the artist.



William Yang, *Alter Ego*, 2000, inkjet print, 55 cm x 70 cm. Courtesy the artist.



## IN A CONSTANT MOVEMENT

## BACKWARDS AND FORWARDS

Cherine Fahd & Julie Rrap

CF Unknown, Kindergarten School
Photo, 1979 [Mum didn't buy
it because I had my eyes half
closed].

JR Albrecht Durer, Self-Portrait 1493

- CF Dad, Cherine 21/2 years posing with a rifle, 1976
- JR Leonardo da Vinci, Self-Portrait -Portrait of a Man in Red Chalk, 1512
- CF Roni Horn, You are the Weather, 1994-1995
- JR Peter Paul Rubens, Self-Portrait, 1623
- CF Piero della Francesca, The Duke and Duchess of Urbino, circa 1465-1472
- JR Artemisia Gentileschi, Self-Portrait as the Allegory of Painting, ca 1639
- CF Titian, Venus of Urbino, 1534
- JR Rembrandt van Rijn, Self-Portrait at the Age of 63, 1669
- CF Raphael, La Fornarina, 1518-1520
- JR Joshua Reynolds, Self-Portrait as a Deaf Man, 1775
- CF Grant Wood, American Gothic, 1930
- JR Francisco de Goya, Self-Portrait at 69 Years, 1815

- CF James Abbott McNeill Whistler, Whistler's Mother, 1871
- JR Eugene Delacroix, Self-Portrait in a Green Vest, 1837
- CF René Magritte, The Son of Man, 1964
- JR James Abbott McNeill Whistler. Arrangement in Gray: Portrait of the Painter, 1872
- CF Man Ray, Solarized Portrait of Lee Miller, ca. 1929.
- JR Claude Monet, Self-Portrait with Beret, 1886
- CF Nan Goldin, Jimmy Paulette + Taboo! In the bathroom, New York, 1991
- JR Edouard Vuillard, Self-Portrait with Waroguy, 1889
- CF Robert Mapplethorpe, Self Portrait, 1975
- JR Henri Rossseau, Myself: Portrait-Landscape, 1890
- CF Francesca Woodman, Selfportrait talking to Vince, Providence, Rhode Island, 1975/78
- JR Paul Cezanne, Self-Portrait with Bowler Hat, 1885-1886
- CF Diane Arbus, Woman carrying a child in Central Park, N.Y.C., 1956
- JR Vincent Van Gogh, Self-portrait as a Painter, 1887-1888
- CF Mona Hatoum, Van Gogh's Back, JR Paul Gauguin, Self-Portrait with 1995
  - the Yellow Christ, 1890 or 1891
- CF Sarah Lucas, Eating a Banana, 1990
- JR Paul-Auguste Renoir, Self-Portrait, 1899
- CF Sarah Lucas, Self Portrait with Fried Eggs, 1996
- JR Paula Modersohn-Becker. Self-Portrait Nude with Amber Necklace, 1906

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CF Akram Zaatari, Bashasha and a friend. Studio Shehrazade, Saida, Lebanon, late 1950s. Hashem el Madani, 2007	JR Pablo Picasso, Autoportrait (Self- Portrait), 1906	CF Mary Ellen Mark, Hippopotamus and Performer, Great Raymon Circus, Madras, India, 1989	JR Rene Magritte, <i>The Son of Man</i> , 1964
CF Sunil Gupta, <i>Dylan &amp; Gerald</i> , <i>London</i> , 1985	JR Egon Schiele, Self-Portrait with Chinese Lantern Plant, 1912	CF William Yang, <i>Allan</i> , from the monologue <i>Sadness</i> , 1990	JR Joseph Beuys, <i>Dwarf (Self-Portrait)</i> , 1965
CF Rineke Dijkstra, Kolobrzeg, Poland, July 26, 1992	JR Marc Chagall, Self-Portrait with Seven Fingers, 1913	CF Julie Rrap 360 degree Self- Portrait, 2009	JR Pierre Molinier Self-Portrait with Painting 1966
CF Rineke Dijkstra, Tecla, Amsterdam, Netherlands,	JR Diego Rivera, Self-Portrait with Broad-Brimmed Hat, 1916	CF Wolfgang Tillmans, Alex and Lutz in the Trees, 1992	JR Bruce Nauman, Self-Portrait with Fountain, 1966
May 16 1994, Julie, Den Haag, Netherlands, February 29 1994 and Saskia, Harderwijk,		CF Fiona Tan, Rise and Fall, 2009	JR Francis Bacon, Self-Portrait, 1969
Netherlands, March 16 1994  CF Rineke Dijkstra, Bullfighters, 1996	JR Amedeo Modigliano, <i>Self-Portrait</i> ,	CF Candice Breitz, <i>Him + Her</i> , 1968-2008	JR Ana Mendieta, Untitled (Self- Portrait with Blood), 1973
ere.e 2 .je.e.e, 2 ege.e, 1000	1919	OR Davies Manager Call Dentus it as a	TD Hannah Willia COC Chariffeation
CF Lygia Clark, <i>Máscaras sensoriais</i> , 1967	JR Kathe Kollwitz, Self-Portrait, 1924	Fountain, 1966	JR Hannah Wilke, S.O.S. Starification Object Series (Performalist Self- Portrait with Les Wollam) 1974
CF Catherine Opie, Self-Portrait/ Nursing, 1993	JR Claude Cahun Self-Portrait 1928	CF Ana Mendieta, <i>Untitled (Facial Hair Transplants)</i> , 1972 /1997	JR <b>Andy Warhol, Self-Portrait, 1978</b>
CF Elina Brotherus, <i>Artist's at work</i> , 2009	JR Pierre Bonnard, <i>Self-Portrait</i> , 1938-1940	CF Nicholas Nixon, <i>The Brown</i> Sisters, 1975-2020	JR Adrian Piper Self-Portrait  Exaggerating My Negroid Features 1981
CF Elinor Carucci, Mother's head in sink, 1999	JR Frida Kahlo, Self-portrait with Bonito, 1941	CF August Sander, Wife of the Cologne Painter Peter Abelen, 1926	JR Jean-Michel Basquiat, Self- Portrait as a Heel – Part Two, 1982
CF Richard Avedon, <i>Marilyn Monroe</i> , actress, New York, 1957	JR Marcel Duchamp, Self-Portrait in profile, 1957		

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	Eleanor Antin, <i>Carving a</i> Traditional Sculpture, 1972	JR Nan Goldin Nan One Month After Being Battered 1984
CF	Bill Viola, Heaven and Earth, 1992	JR Lucien Freud, <i>Reflection (Self-Portrait)</i> , 1985
CF	Claude Cahun, Self Portrait, 1928	JR Jenny Watson self-Portrait as a Little Girl 1987
	Collier Schorr, <i>Karin in Grass</i> , 1996	JR Martin Kippenberger, Martin, Into the Corner, You Should Be Ashamed of Yourself , 1989-90
CF	Larry Clark, <i>Untitled (KIDS)</i> , 1995	JR Louise Bourgeois, <i>Self-Portrait</i> , 1990
	Thomas Struth, Family Portraits, Charles & Laurence, New York, 2001	JR Chuck Close, Self-Portrait, 1991
	Joke Robaard, <i>Stand-In,</i> November 28, 2003 – February 1, 2004	JR Jenny Saville, <i>Propped</i> , 1992
CF	Talia Chetrit, <i>Untitled (Body)</i> , 2018	JR Catherine Opie, Self-Portrait/ Cutting 1993
CF.	Talia Chetrit, <i>Parent</i> s, 2014	JR Anselm Keifer, Self-Portrait, 1995
	Catherine Opie, <i>Pig Pen (Tattoos)</i> , 2009.	JR Destiny Deacon me and Virginia's Doll 1995
		JR Shirin Neshat, Seeking

Martyrdom, 1995

- JR Sarah Lucas, Self-Portrait with Fried Eggs, 1996
- JR Gerhard Richter, Self-Portrait, 1996
- JR Maurizio Cattelan, Spermini (Little Sperms) 1997
- JR Richard Hamilton, *Self-Portrait with Yellow*, 1998
- JR William Yang Self-Portrait #2 1999
- JR Tracey Moffatt Self-Portrait 1999
- JR Pipilotti Rist, Open My Glade (Flatten) 2000
- JR Yasuma Morimura An Inner Dialogue with Frida Kahlo (Self-Portrait with Cropped Hair 1) 2001
- JR Tracey Emin, Self-Portrait, 2001
- JR Zhang Huan, Family Tree 2001
- JR Marina Abramovic Self-Portrait with Skeleton 2003
- JR Glenn Ligon Self-Portrait at Eleven Years Old 2004
- JR Marc Quinn, Self, 2006
- JR Ronnie van Hout, End Doll, 2007
- JR Vernon Ah Kee Self-Portrait (possesses some of the attributes of an artist) 2007
- JR Julie Rrap, 360 Degree Self-Portrait, 2009
- JR Cherine Fahd, *HIDING Self-Portraits*, 2009 -2010
- JR Damien Hirst, Self-Portrait (X-Ray), 2010
- JR David Hockney, self-Portrait, 2012
- JR Cindy Sherman, #571, 2016
- JR Mike Parr, Blind Self-Portraits, 2013
- JR Zanele Muholi *Ntozakhe 11, Parktown* 2016

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Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap, The Other Portrait, 2021, 4 digital prints, 70 cm x 73 cm (each).

LIST OF WORKS

Cigdem Aydemir, *Stasis*, 2019, photograph, 88 cm x 54 cm. Photo credit: Marion Moore.

Cigdem Aydemir, *Nomad* (*Cartographer*), 2021, single channel HD video with sound, 4:51 mins.

Courtesy the artist and Finkelstein Gallery.

Simon Cooper, Feeling It/Being It, 2021, 3 channel digital video, 3:20 mins.

Simon Cooper, Feeling It/Being It, 2021, single channel digital video, 2:55 mins.

Courtesy the artist.

Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap, *The Other Portrait*, 2021, 4 digital prints, 70 cm x 73 cm (each).

Cherine Fahd and Julie Rrap, *Give and Take*, 2021, 4 channel video, 10:00 mins.

Courtesy the artists. Julie Rrap is represented by Roslyn Oxley9 Gallery, Sydney and Arc One Gallery, Melbourne.

Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, Holding the Hidden, 2021, high definition 16:9 video, colour, sound, duration variable.

Gabriella Mangano and Silvana Mangano, *To my left, to my right,* 2021, high definition 16:9 video, colour, sound, duration variable.

Courtesy the artists and Anna Schwartz Gallery.

Sara Oscar, *Body in My Pieces*, 2021, five pigment prints, 50 cm x 70 cm.

Sara Oscar, My Body in Pieces, 2021, pigment print, industrially bent steel, Thai silk, dimensions variable.

Courtesy the artist.

Patrick Pound, *Pairs*, 2010-2021, found photographs, site specific/variable.

Courtesy the artist and Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney.

Ronnie van Hout, *Stalker,* 2021, painted urethane, clothing, 200 cm x 60 cm x 60 cm.

Ronnie van Hout, *Stalker*, 2021, single channel HD video, colour/sound, looped 7:45 mins.

Courtesy the artist, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney and Station Gallery, Melbourne.

William Yang, *William in Scholar's* Costume, 1984/2009, digital print, 80 cm x 63 cm.

William Yang, Self Portrait #1, 1992, silver gelatin print, 51 cm x 61 cm.

William Yang, copy of hand coloured publicity photo for The North, 1996, hand coloured inkjet print, 30 cm x 33 cm.

William Yang, *Alter Ego*, 2000, inkjet print, 55 cm x 70 cm.

William Yang, *Climbing Huang Shan*, 2005, inkjet print, 41 cm x 48 cm.

William Yang, Self Portrait #2, 2007, digital print, 85 cm x 50 cm.

William Yang, Self Portrait #5, 2008, inkjet print, 47 cm x 70 cm.

William Yang, Self Portrait #6, 2021, single channel digital video.

William Yang, Eight Self Portraits, 2021, single channel video with sound, 8:00 mins

Courtesy the artist.

#### MAP

#### The Other Portrait

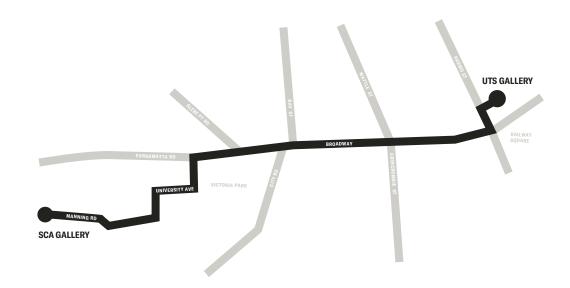
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#### **SCA Gallery**

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#### **UTS Gallery**

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